

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have not been amended, and are set forth here in full for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) A silicon-based film comprising a crystal phase formed on a substrate, said substrate having a surface shape represented by a function  $f$ ,

wherein the surface shape has a standard deviation of an inclination  $\arctan(df/dx)$  from  $15^\circ$  to  $55^\circ$  within the range of a sampling length  $dx$  from 20 nm to 100 nm,

wherein a Raman scattering strength resulting from an amorphous component in the silicon-based film is not more than a Raman scattering strength resulting from a crystalline component in the silicon-based film, and

wherein a difference between a spacing in a direction parallel to a principal surface of the substrate and a spacing of single crystal silicon is within the range of 0.2% to 1.0% with regard to the spacing of the single crystal silicon.

2. (Original) The silicon-based film according to claim 1, comprising a crystal of a columnar structure in a thickness direction.

3. (Original) The silicon-based film according to claim 1, wherein a percentage of a diffraction strength of (220) plane due to X-ray or electron beam diffraction is 30% or more of a total diffraction strength.

4. (Original) The silicon-based film according to claim 1, which is formed by a plasma CVD method using a high frequency.

5. (Original) The silicon-based film according to claim 4, wherein the high frequency is not less than 10 MHz but no more than 10 GHz.

6. (Original) A photovoltaic element comprising a silicon-based semiconductor layer having at least one pin junction on a support, wherein at least one i-type semiconductor layer comprises the silicon-based film as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. (Original) The photovoltaic element according to claim 6, wherein the silicon-based semiconductor layer is formed on a substrate comprising at least a first transparent conductive layer stacked on the support, and the first transparent conductive layer has the surface shape represented by the function  $f$ .

8. (Original) The photovoltaic element according to claim 6, wherein the support is a conductive support.